

COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

MINUTES

January 16, 2003

Attendees:

Capt. Tim Lockett - Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP)
Dan Thompson - State Fire Marshal's Office
Steve Woolington – Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)
Britt McKinney – Wolf Creek Generating Plant
Karen Schuyler – Astaris
Randy Duncan – Chairman, Sedgwick County Emergency Management
Jerry Davis – Finney County Commissioner
Major General Greg Gardner – Adjutant General
Dr. Mike Moser – Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE)
Jack Taylor – City of Emporia Fire Department

Members of public and support staff were in attendance.

Members not in Attendance:

Dick Heitschmidt – City of Hutchinson
Dr. Lyle Noordhoek – Central Plains Laboratory

Meeting:

- Meeting opened at 9:45 – Randy Duncan provided opening comments.
- Minutes from September 26, 2002 meeting – Dr. Moser indicated that some additional corrections needed to be made to the previous minutes. Also Tim Lockett made some revisions. Once the corrections were made, they were approved, Tim Lockett moved, Dr. Moser seconded, and unanimously approved.
- Dave Lake with the Board of the Emergency Medical Services inquired about his agency role in this Committee. Gen Gardner explained that the Board of EMS is represented in the LEPC Sub-committee.
- Committee Reports were presented:

Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team 9:53

- Due to the snowstorm, Ms. Eichem was unable to reach Topeka; however, Gene Krase directed the committee to look in the Mitigation's tab in the CEPR notebook. Gen Gardner mentioned that with mitigation funds, the National Weather Service cooperation, and help from business around the state by allowing us the use of their towers, now Kansas has a wider coverage of NOAA weather radio stations. Kansas now has almost a complete coverage, except in few places where the signal is weak, but compared with the year 1996 that only half of the state was covered. It has been a great accomplishment for the state, because this project fulfills the goals of mitigation that is to reduce or prevent the impact of future disasters. He indicated that tornados cannot be prevented, but

by people seeking refuge in the basement of their homes advised with the warning signal, we can reduce the damage.

Gen Gardner explained to the Committee that the rationality for this project versus the regular weather sirens is that in this time, citizens live inside of their homes with air conditioning and other noises that don't allow them to hear the sirens, but they will have the radio turn on. There is a bill in Congress to request a technology to be developed that will allow televisions to be turned on by an external signal and to provide warning messages, including Homeland Security warning signals.

Randy Duncan mentioned that RCA in the Electronic Consumer Show in Las Vegas the coming week, they will have 3 models of televisions that already have those capabilities and they will be available for purchasing this fall.

Randy Duncan momentarily stopped the meeting to make phone connection with Dr. Lyle Noordhoek in Hays. Dr. Noordhoek was absent from his office.

Gen. Gardner indicated that now we have an additional mitigation program; "Safe Rooms for Schools" with 7,000 school kids who have participated. Randy Duncan added that Sedgwick County has been very pleased with the partnership they developed with USD 259 in that area, and they have now around 12 safe rooms actively in use. Gen Gardner mentioned that City of Wichita has been one of the biggest areas in the State where this program has been implemented. This was the result of the Haysville-City of Wichita tornado. The USD 259 created a bond to build new schools and by getting this partial funding they were capable to build the new rooms according to the new specifications. This program is being carrying around the State in other areas where the schools are willing to match this grant.

Jack Taylor Inquired if ever has been a discussion with the State Board of Education or Department of Education to incorporate these standards as part of their rules. Gen Gardner and Randy Duncan believe that not, but this will be an excellent suggestion for this Committee to do.

Communication Committee 10:00

David Lake

- This Committee was formed a little more than a year ago, and the Committee is ready to take a different approach. The final draft of the State of Kansas Statewide Communication Survey was provided to the Committee. This survey will be distributed to the every known communications service in the state of Kansas, that at least they are 7,000 people that participate at some level in emergency response. A vendor will be hired to distribute the survey in hard copy and also through the web. A bid for this service will be turned-in in the near future. The funding for this project is coming from Emergency Medical Services Trauma Fund that is a federal grant for EMS and trauma, and the Board of EMS and the Advisory Committee in Trauma are sharing it for the state.

The survey will establish a base line for wireless communications for public service and emergency service. The Committee is still working with the charter to be addressed under the CEPR. The Communications committee is trying to focus on getting all the state agencies in agreement on the needs of the state as

a whole. Next meeting is going to take place on February 4, 2003. The members of the Communication Committee will come back with the findings of the consensus and the proposed charter. Federal agencies are assisting the state agencies on this.

Randy Duncan congratulated Dave Lake on his efforts to lead this committee. It is believe that this effort has not been conducted before. Dave indicated that is necessary to know where the state is to know where we are going. Randy said that the survey results would give us an inside of what is going on at the responders level. Dave indicated that God forbidden, but right now if we would have a major incident, we would find out that many responders would not be able to communicate, because the capabilities out there are not the same, specially at the rural areas, where they will have to draw from a much bigger areas of responder and the problem will be compounded. Major areas of responding will be more difficult to do it, because even the problem has been already addressed for local responders, it has not for responders coming from a different area.

Gen Gardner made an observation that all the state of Kansas agencies have made their grant information open and available for other agencies to help the state overall. Dave Lake indicated that this initiative was not only the result of the events from 0911, but from natural disaster as well. He provided the Committee with a brochure of the EMS Summit in Kansas that will take place on February 12 and 13, 2003. This program in previous years has been received very well by a very diverse audience, most of them emergency responders, but also elected officials, county commissioners, and legislators. The registration fee is \$30.00 and includes some meals. The conference will focus on funding and assistance to counties and rural communities on how to maintain strong EMS values and keep them in place, even all the existing communication and training problems.

Jerry Davis suggested that to get more attention from the county commissioners to do the mailing through the Kansas Association of Commissioners and mail the brochure directly to their personal homes. Many of the commissioners only show up once a month for meetings, and many of them may not receive the brochure. Dave Lake appreciated the comment and he will make sure that next year they will be mailed to their homes.

LEPC Appointment Committee 10:15

Leticia Arzate

- Neosho, Geary, and Butler counties submitted their new LEPC Membership. The Committee members approved the proposals. Ms. Arzate explained to Dave Lake that the Board of EMS is represented at the LEPC Committee, but not at the CEPR Committee.

The “Local Elected Officials Orientation to Emergency Management and LEPC” video has been completed and was presented at the Kansas Association of Municipalities conference on November 19, 2002. The video was very well received by the audience. The video has been distributed to the 105 counties and now we are offering other two modalities besides video, CD and DVD. A list was passed around the Committee members, if they wish to receive a different item. The States of Oklahoma and Nebraska SERCs have requested copies of

the video to modify it to fit their states procedures. EPA also has requested a copy of the video for future dissemination.

The Adjutant General Department Legal Counsel is looking into the legality of the copyright.

Terrorism Working Group 10:20

Gene Krase

- The Terrorism Working Group meets monthly and the members share mutual goals and objectives. The group has received a report of all the grants that address terrorism initiatives. In the last meeting, Dr. Moser with KDHE provided a summary of their bioterrorism grant and Capt. Lockett provided also a summary of the Department of Justice grant that is being administrated by the Highway Patrol. A handout was giving to the Committee with an overview of the breakdown for the new FEMA Supplemental Grant. The new grant consists of four parts: 1) Emergency Operations Plans and Procedures. The document outlines that 700,000 minimum will go directly to the counties. 2) Some of the funds will go to the program "Citizens Corps Council." It is to help to set up the program. Sedgwick County has taken a great approach by including this program as part of all hazards LEPC. The fund for this program \$39,000 has been allocated. 3) The CERT training has been provided by KDEM for some time. This program is for neighborhoods, helping and knowing each other. 4) The last grant is to assess the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC). A contractor will be hired to evaluate the EOC and to take an integrated look at the EOC. KDEM is still under continuing resolution; so far we have not received our approved budget, and is still debating in Washington.

Randy Duncan asked what is the time frame to pass this funding to the locals. Gene Krase considers that the most populated counties more likely will receive the funds sooner. KDEM will try to put this project out for bid and obtain "request for proposals" to pre-qualify some contractors. When the monies pass to the locals, they won't have to do the bidding, but they will have already qualified vendor to pick from. Randy Duncan asked if the monies would be disbursed to the counties in the same manner as they as disbursed for the SLA funds. Gen. Gardner and Gene Krase indicated that this formula is different and very complicated.

The Civil Support Team, 73rd Detachment Weapons of Mass Destruction has been certified and the Adjutant General Department has been working with the internal procedures to activate the team. Some table-top exercises will be conducted in the future to test these procedures. The information on how to activate the team will be disseminated to the counties by different means; newsletter, web page, etc. The procedures are the same as with a natural disaster when the Guard is requested for help.

Gen Gardner added that the Team consists of 22 Guardsmen, who will assist the counties to identify any radiological, chemical, biological or any terrorism vector. They will advise the Incident Commander on what to do, potential evacuations and more. The team has very qualified professionals with a wide knowledge to assist the locals. Also the team has a communication suite that will allow responders to communicate in the same frequency. The Gen. Gardner indicated

that he was proud to say that from the 5 teams that were supposed to be on board this year, the Kansas team is the first one, and they broke many records on their performance during the external evaluation. It will be 3 months before the certification comes back. The document has to be signed by the proper channels, before the team is officially certified, but officially they team can be activated in this moment, if the governor will deemed necessary.

Capt. Lockett indicated that one of the problems his agency was experienced with the DOJ grantees is that when they requested a piece of equipment, they did not consider that many of that instrumentation requires calibration or maintenance and some of counties did not consider that they will have to pay for it. He said that he keeps receiving calls from county commissioners asking for monies for maintenance and he has indicated that they cannot supplant. This information has been integrated in the counties contracts when they receive the equipment. This also serves that if elected officials change the person who comes behind knows about this stipulation.

Gene Krase mentioned that KDEM has worked with operational definitions in simple language for a definition of supplanting. This definition will be provided to other state agencies participating in the Terrorism Group to help them with their grants. The next meeting for this group is on January 22, 2003 at 1300 in this building. The meeting will continue to take place monthly.

New Business addressed:

- Emergency Alert System Committee Charter 10:30 – 10:38 John Crosby
 - Ms. Arzate indicated that the original speaker for this presentation, Bill Nolan (Chairman of the EAS Committee) could not attend due to personal reasons. His replacement Robert Hilton (Vice-chairman of the Committee) could not attend due to the inclement weather today. John Crosby with Sedgwick County Emergency Management representing Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA) will do the presentation.

The Committee was presented a copy of the proposed charter under the Committee Reports chapter in the CEPR notebook. The Committee is constituted approximately with fourteen members from different private and public organizations. The Purpose of the Committee is to prepare the Kansas Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan. The plan will provide background data and will prescribe specific procedures for the broadcast, cable media, and government officials to insure emergency notification and warning to the general public, during threatened or actual emergencies.

Gen Gardner mentioned the Emergency Alert System used to be the Emergency Broadcast System. He requested the Committee to read the proposed Charter.

- Homeland Security Impact on Industry 10:38 – 11:05 Karen Schuyler

- Ms. Schuyler provided a presentation of the new security measures adopted by Astaris as part of the new Homeland Security program. Due to security reasons, the details of her presentation won't be included in this document.
- Homeland Security Impact on Industry 11:05 – 11:33 Britt McKinney
 - Mr. McKinney provided a presentation of the new security measures adopted by Wolf Creek as part of the new Homeland Security program. Due to security reasons, the details of his presentation won't be included in this document.
- State Agency Administrative Boundaries 11:33 – 11:45 Jessica Rose
 - Ms. Rose provided a brief presentation on current administrative boundaries for the state. Included boundaries were: Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Environment, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Kansas Trauma Regions. In general, the presentation was to show that all five administrative boundaries, though close, are not in alignment with one another. In conclusion, a total of 29 counties in Kansas lie within two or more different regions within all five of the administrative boundaries. Tim Lockett stated that KHP follows KDOT boundaries.
- EPA Update 11:45 – 11:48
- Next Meeting Matrix 11:49
- Meeting adjourned at 11:51